



St Martin's C of E Primary School

Meet our Governors

Our governors are an important part of our school. They provide support and challenge to the leadership team.

Vicki Gill (Chair)



I am the Chair of Governors at St. Martin's and have been involved with the school for many years as their School Improvement Advisor, prior to joining the Governing Body in 2016. I was the headteacher of an outstanding, multi-cultural primary school in Sandwell, West Midlands for 11 years, and then the executive head teacher of an academy in Derby before becoming a School Improvement Advisor, and an independent consultant.

My passion for developing creative and independent learners lies at the heart of what I think makes a school successful, coupled with an environment which allows staff and pupils to flourish and grow.

I very much enjoy working with the team at St Martin's, and I believe it has a special ethos which provides the children with a safe and supportive place to learn and develop. I believe my background in education helps me to work with staff, pupils and parents to make it very best it can be.

Jordan Cooksey

I have worked as a teacher at St Martin's CofE Primary School since September 2013. I have taught across key stage 2. I am KS2 phase leader and subject lead for maths, music and MFL.

My passion for teaching and learning makes me feel lucky to work in such a fantastic setting. In my classroom, we ask questions, take risks and have overcome our fear of making mistakes – we know that this is how we learn! I have always enjoyed working here at St Martin's and love the family atmosphere in our school.



Leuan Cooksey



I am a Chartered Building Surveyor with 13 years' experience and work for a Birmingham-based design consultancy. I have several years' experience of working within the education sector as a surveyor and delivering key capital development, refurbishment and improvement projects in schools and academies across the country.

This experience has helped me to understand some of the challenges that schools face with respect to their estate and property and I hope that I can use this and further develop my experience as a governor at St Martin's.

Jane Wootton

I am an experienced early years teacher and have taught children in Foundation Stage for the whole of my career. Since 2006 I have worked as a senior Early Years Advisor and trainer supporting learning and development and the implementation of the Early Years Foundation Stage across both the maintained and private sectors.

I am passionate about early years and the importance of those first five years of life. I know, without doubt that if we get it right in the early years of a child's life, it sets a strong foundation for all future growth, learning and development.

My areas of specialism includes physical development and outdoor play. I firmly believe that not only is outdoor play essential for young children's physical development but crucially for their emotional and mental wellbeing too.



I am delighted to be part of the community of St Martins and excited to bring my passion for early years with me. I'm looking forward to contributing to the future development of the community.

Jay Alexander



I have a 15yr background in Youth and Community work, including working with secondary and primary schools in the Sandwell, Staffordshire and Birmingham areas.

I became a Parent Governor in 2021, and have a lead role in both Welfare and Community. I saw this role as a great opportunity to give back to my daughter's school as we continue to ensure that St Martin's is a safe and fun place for our children to develop into the best version of themselves. If any parents have ideas that they would like to put forward on how we can continue to improve in these areas, please reach out to me.

Rachel Parkes

I have worked in the higher education estates sector for over 10 years and currently lead customer-facing operations for an estates department supporting more than 250 buildings on and off our large campus. My role has given me valuable experience in leadership, communication, problem-solving, and working with a wide range of people to deliver safe and effective services. Alongside my professional experience, I am also a parent, which gives me a personal understanding of the importance of providing children with a supportive environment where they can learn, grow, and thrive.



I am passionate about ensuring that every child feels valued and supported. From my own experiences, I know that some challenges, such as anxiety and eating-related difficulties, are not always visible, and I believe it is important that no child feels overlooked. Schools play a vital role in recognising and supporting children's wellbeing alongside their education.

I am delighted to be part of the St Martin's community and look forward to contributing both my professional experience and my perspective as a parent. I hope to support the school in continuing to provide the best possible environment for every child to succeed.

Fiona Tait

I used to work at a special school for children with complex needs. I was there for 7 years until I had my youngest son and then due to other family commitments I had to give up the job I loved. While I was there, I gained my NVQ level 2 in working with children with special needs. I have 3 children: my eldest son suffers from autism, my youngest son has SEMH challenges and my daughter has a blood disorder. I am a full-time carer to my husband and elderly mom. I'm very friendly and approachable, I love line-dancing and gem art.



I was appointed parent governor in July 2022 and am now a co-opted governor. This role is very important to me as St Martin's holds a place in heart because they have always been a major support and help to myself, my children and my family through all the different stages of my children's education and growing needs. As a result, I want to give back to the future of the school and the children that come to this school in the generations to come. I have a knowledge of how the school functions so that it caters for children of all abilities.

Richard Archbold



I have worked in education since 2004 across a range of leadership, pastoral and inclusion roles in both mainstream and specialist settings. This has given me extensive experience in school improvement, safeguarding, behaviour, attendance and SEND.

I am passionate about inclusive education and believe all children should be given the support, opportunities and encouragement they need to succeed.

As a governor, I hope to bring both support and challenge to the role, using my experience and strategic understanding of education to help the school continue to thrive for its pupils, families and wider community.

Loriann Beckford

My name is Loriann Beckford, and I work as a Health and Social Care tutor and Lead Internal Quality Assurance at a local college in Sandwell. Before that, I was a deputy manager in a residential home.

I see this governance role as a way of giving back to the community and using transferrable skills and knowledge to help build a better future for our children. I am thrilled to join St Martin's primary as a co-opted governor and look forward to serving the school.



Ann Brookes



I became a governor at St Martin's C of E Primary School in April 2026 because I wanted to use my professional experience to support education and help ensure that every child has access to high-quality learning opportunities in a safe, inclusive and ambitious environment. I enjoy working collaboratively with the school community, providing both support and challenge, and contributing to the strategic direction of the school. I am particularly drawn to St Martin's Christian ethos and the important role it plays in nurturing pupils' academic, personal and spiritual development.

I have worked in education for 28 years and am a qualified teacher. I currently work as a Specialist Advisory Teacher for Learning, supporting schools across Sandwell to meet the needs of pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Throughout my career, I have been passionate about helping children achieve their full potential and promoting inclusive practices that enable all learners to succeed.